



Housing & Opportunity Grant Program (HOP)

~ State Fiscal Year 2016 Awards Summary ~

The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) has awarded more than \$4.6 million in federal¹ and state funding under the Housing & Opportunity Grant Program (HOP) to forty nonprofit organizations across Vermont, including community and faith-based organizations.

The Housing & Opportunity Grant Program provides funding to operate emergency overnight and day shelter; provide essential services to shelter residents; provide transitional housing where appropriate; rapidly re-house homeless individuals and families; prevent individuals and families experiencing a housing crisis from becoming homeless; implement coordinated entry to streamline client access to resources; and administer the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

The Housing & Opportunity Grant Program operates within the [Opening Doors, Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#) and the [Vermont Plan to End Homelessness](#). The primary goals of the Housing & Opportunity Grant Program are to

- Decrease the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness;
- Shorten the length of time people experience homelessness;
- Reduce the number of individuals and families returning to homelessness; and
- Prevent people from becoming homeless.

A guiding principle of the Housing & Opportunity Grant Program is to tie homeless assistance activities to permanent housing through systems, practices, and initiatives that are informed by data and proven approaches. While the program will continue to address the needs of homeless people in emergency or transitional shelters, the focus is to assist people to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis or homelessness.²

OEO works in close partnership the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness and the Chittenden Homeless Alliance to ensure that state and federal resources are targeted to have the strongest collective impact. The organizations receiving awards work as part of their local homeless continuum of care (CoC) to coordinate services and housing for Vermonters experiencing homelessness in their community. The HOP Awards Summary is organized to reflect these local Continua of Care. For more information about Vermont's Continua of Care visit www.helpingtohousevt.org.

¹ Federal funds are from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG). The [Vermont Consolidated Plan](#) outlines the activities and objectives for use of ESG funds.

² HUD HEARTH Emergency Solutions Grants Program, Interim Regulation, <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/1927/hearth-esg-program-and-consolidated-plan-conforming-amendments/>

HOP funding is awarded to support one or more strategies or categories:

- Emergency Shelter: Operations and/or Essential Services
- [Homelessness Prevention](#): Services, Relocation & Stabilization Assistance, Rental Assistance
- [Rapid Re-housing](#): Services, Relocation & Stabilization Assistance, Rental Assistance
- Innovation and [Coordinated Entry](#)
- [Transitional Housing](#), where shown to be the most effective strategy
- [Homeless Management Information System \(HMIS\)](#)³

Grantees are allowed up to 10% of their award to support administration through a federally approved or *de minimis* indirect rate.

Eligibility for services and assistance is determined by an individual or family's housing status. In general, emergency shelter, rapid re-housing and transitional housing serve those who meet the Vermont Agency of Human Services (AHS) and US Housing & Urban Development (HUD) definition of homelessness. Homelessness prevention assistance is available to those who meet the AHS and HUD definition of "at risk of homelessness" as well as income guidelines.⁴

Organizations that received funding to provide Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-housing services provide the following to help households relocate or stabilize in housing:

- Housing Search and Placement, including work with nonprofit and private landlords
- Housing Stability Case Management, including follow-up and connection with post-lease supportive services
- Landlord-Tenant Mediation
- Follow-up or Supportive Services to Help Maintain Housing
- Money Management/Credit Repair
- Tenant Education

Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-housing Financial and Rental Assistance include the following, specific availability varies by organization and community:

- Financial Assistance: security deposits, utility deposits/payments, last month's rent, moving costs
- Rental Arrears, up to 3 months
- Short Term Rental Assistance, up to 3 months
- Medium Term Rental Assistance, up to 24 months

³ Unless otherwise noted in the Awards Summary, funds awarded for HMIS support user licenses and fees. In the case of programs serving victims of domestic or sexual violence, funds support participation in a comparable separate system.

⁴ The definition of homeless may be found here: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/2020/the-homeless-definition-and-eligibility-for-shp-spc-and-esg/>. The definition for "at risk of homelessness" may be found here: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/1975/criteria-for-definition-of-at-risk-of-homelessness/>

Addison County Continuum of Care

Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO) **\$128,574**

Categories: Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-housing, HMIS, Innovation

Partial support for one full time housing specialist (.75 FTE)

Innovation: RentRight, an education program combining tenant information, financial capability and housing assistance; successful graduates receive a “preferred renter” card; RentRight program staff (.4 FTE) split between Chittenden, Franklin and Addison Counties

Rapid Re-Housing Financial & Rental Assistance: \$21,993

Homelessness Prevention Financial & Rental Assistance: \$46,651

Charter House Coalition **\$20,000**

Category: Emergency Shelter Operations

Operation of a seasonal warming shelter in Middlebury (November – April) with capacity of 12 beds for adults only

HOPE **\$82,503**

Categories: Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-housing

Partial support for three full time housing specialists (1.6 FTE)

Rapid Re-Housing Financial & Rental Assistance: \$5,750

Homelessness Prevention Financial & Rental Assistance: \$11,753

Flexible Support Funding: \$5,000

John Graham Shelter **\$171,765**

Categories: Emergency Shelter Operations & Essential Services, HMIS

Partial support for three full time Service Coordinators (2.75 FTE), operation of two facilities (Main Street Shelter & Green Street) providing year-round emergency shelter in Vergennes with capacity of 14 rooms (38 beds) for adults and families with children

Bennington Housing Solutions Team

Bennington County Coalition for the Homeless **\$132,000**

Categories: Emergency Shelter Operations & Essential Services, HMIS

Partial support for two full time shelter staff (.85 FTE), operation of a year-round day shelter and two facilities providing year-round emergency shelter in Bennington with capacity of 12 beds for adults only (Good Shepherd) and 9 units for adults and families with children (Thatcher House)

BROC – Community Action in Southwestern Vermont **\$148,205**

Categories: Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-housing, Transitional Housing

Partial support for two full time housing specialists (1.5 FTE)

Rapid Re-Housing Financial & Rental Assistance: \$18,500

Homelessness Prevention Financial & Rental Assistance: \$18,500

One unit with 3 bedrooms of short-term transitional housing for families with children

Project Against Violent Encounters (PAVE) **\$20,000**

Category: Emergency Shelter Operations

Operation of a year-round emergency shelter with capacity of 5 rooms (15 beds) for individuals and families fleeing violence

Brattleboro Area Continuum of Care

Groundworks Collaborative **\$150,000**

Categories: Emergency Shelter Operations & Essential Services, HMIS, Innovation

Partial support for a full time Shelter Case Manager, a Seasonal Shelter Coordinator, and a Housing Coordinator/Landlord Liaison to support landlord outreach and housing placement (1.875 FTE); operation of a year-round emergency shelter in Brattleboro with capacity of 24 beds for adults and families with children, a year-round day shelter, and a seasonal shelter with capacity of 30 beds for adults only

Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) **\$151,444**

Categories: Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-housing

Partial support for two full time housing specialists (1.1 FTE)

Rapid Re-Housing Financial & Rental Assistance: \$40,036

Homelessness Prevention Financial & Rental Assistance: \$23,774

Women's Freedom Center **\$34,500**

Categories: Emergency Shelter Operations & Essential Services

Operation of a year-round emergency shelter with capacity of 6 rooms (13 beds) for individuals and families fleeing violence; transportation assistance for shelter residents

Youth Services **\$10,000**

Category: Transitional Housing

Transitional Living Program: 1 unit with 3 rooms for unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness

Chittenden Homeless Alliance

Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO) \$669,902

Categories: Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-housing, Innovation, HMIS

Partial support for two full time housing specialists (1.625 FTE) and a Case Management Coordinator to manage GA referrals and coordination of services at Harbor Place (.5 FTE)

Innovation: RentRight, an education program combining tenant information, financial capability and housing assistance; successful graduates receive a “preferred renter” card; RentRight program staff (.4 FTE) split between Chittenden, Franklin and Addison Counties

Rapid Re-Housing Financial & Rental Assistance: \$238,399

Homelessness Prevention Financial & Rental Assistance: \$228,000

Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS) \$388,273

Categories: Emergency Shelter Operations & Essential Services, HMIS, Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-housing

Partial support for shelter staff (3.75 FTE) and a case manager for single adults (.75 FTE); a full-time housing specialist and partial support for a full time Housing Resource Coordinator (1.5 FTE); and operation of three year-round emergency shelters and a day shelter in Burlington with capacity of 36 beds for adults only and 15 rooms (38 beds) for families with children

Rapid Re-Housing Financial & Rental Assistance: \$35,000

Homelessness Prevention Financial & Rental Assistance: \$21,275

Safe Harbor at Community Health Centers of Burlington \$62,000

Category: Emergency Shelter Essential Services

A full time housing specialist to work with individuals and families staying in publicly funded motels

Spectrum Youth & Family Services \$20,000

Category: Emergency Shelter Operations

Operation of a year-round emergency shelter with 8- bed capacity for unaccompanied youth

Women Helping Battered Women \$153,000

Categories: Emergency Shelter Operations & Essential Services, Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-housing

Partial support for four full-time staff: Shelter Coordinator, Safehome (Motel) Advocate, and two housing/economic justice advocates (2.675 FTE); operation of a year-round emergency shelter with capacity of 6 rooms (17) beds for individuals and families fleeing violence; onsite services for those staying in shelter and publicly-funded motels

Rapid Re-Housing Financial & Rental Assistance: \$22,500

Homelessness Prevention Financial & Rental Assistance: \$12,500

Franklin/Grand Isle Housing Solutions

Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO) \$211,324

Categories: Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-housing, Innovation, HMIS

Partial support for two full time housing specialists (1.2 FTE)

Innovation: RentRight, an education program combining tenant information, financial capability and housing assistance; successful graduates receive a “preferred renter” card;

RentRight program staff (.4 FTE) split between Chittenden, Franklin and Addison Counties

Rapid Re-Housing Financial & Rental Assistance: \$61,704

Homelessness Prevention Financial & Rental Assistance: \$61,704

Voices Against Violence (CVOEO) \$33,501

Categories: Emergency Shelter Operations & Essential Services, Transitional Housing

Partial support for two full-time positions: Shelter Advocate and Housing Advocate (.3 FTE), operation of a year-round emergency shelter with capacity of 4 rooms (9 beds) for individuals and families fleeing violence, 1 unit of transitional housing for individuals and families fleeing violence

Samaritan House \$103,500

Categories: Emergency Shelter Operations & Essential Services

Partial support for two shelter staff/housing specialists (1.8 FTE), operation of a year-round emergency shelter with capacity of 16 beds for individuals and families with children

Lamoille Valley Housing & Homeless Coalition

Capstone Community Action \$143,747

Categories: Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-housing, Innovation, Transitional Housing, HMIS

A full time housing specialist

Innovation: Landlord Liaison to support landlord outreach and housing placement (full-time position split between Orange, Lamoille and Washington Counties)

Rapid Re-Housing Financial & Rental Assistance: \$30,100

Homelessness Prevention Financial & Rental Assistance: \$20,000

One unit with two bedrooms of transition-in-place housing for individuals and families

Clarina Howard Nichols Center \$21,200

Categories: Emergency Shelter Operations & Essential Services

Partial support for a full time Shelter Coordinator (.375), operation of a year-round emergency shelter with capacity of 6 rooms (16 beds) for individuals and families fleeing violence

Northeast Kingdom Continuum of Care (Caledonia & Essex Counties) & Orleans Continuum of Care

Advocacy Project at Umbrella **\$15,000**

Categories: Emergency Shelter Operations & Essential Services

Partial support for a full time Housing Advocate (.15), maintain year-round capacity of 4 rooms (6 beds) of emergency shelter for individuals and families fleeing violence

Northeast Kingdom Community Action

St. Johnsbury **\$140,816**

Categories: Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-housing, Innovation, Transitional Housing

A full time housing specialist

Innovation: Landlord-CoC partnership to provide tenant education workshops

Rapid Re-Housing Financial & Rental Assistance: \$27,858

Homelessness Prevention Financial & Rental Assistance: \$40,000

Two units with two bedrooms each of short-term transitional housing for individuals and families

Newport **\$118,015**

Categories: Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-housing, Innovation, Transitional Housing

A full time housing specialist

Rapid Re-Housing Financial & Rental Assistance: \$17,858

Homelessness Prevention Financial & Rental Assistance: \$30,000

Two units with two bedrooms each of short-term transitional housing for individuals and families

Northeast Kingdom Youth Services **\$12,800**

Category: Transitional Housing

1 unit with 2 rooms for unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness

Rutland County Continuum of Care

BROC – Community Action in Southwestern Vermont **\$53,500**

Categories: Essential Services, Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-housing, HMIS

Partial support for a full time housing specialist and a full-time Jen's Motel Manager (.7 FTE);

Jen's Motel is BROC's nonprofit motel with onsite services, utilized by GA-voucher clients

Dodge House **\$56,500**

Category: Transitional Housing

A full-time housing director/case manager; operation of a year-round transitional housing facility with capacity of 8 rooms for Veterans experiencing homelessness

Fair Haven Concerned	\$5,000
Category: Homelessness Prevention	
Homelessness Prevention Financial & Rental Assistance: \$5,000	
Homeless Prevention Center	\$410,631
Categories: Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-housing, Innovation, Coordinated Entry, Transitional Housing, HMIS	
Partial support for four housing specialists (3.5 FTE)	
Innovation & Coordinated Entry: Landlord Risk Pool; a full-time Coordinated Entry Implementation Manager/Landlord Liaison to streamline client access to resources and to partner with landlords to support housing placement and retention	
Rapid Re-Housing Financial & Rental Assistance: \$57,879	
Homelessness Prevention Financial & Rental Assistance: \$70,000	
Four units of short-term transitional housing for individuals and families	
Open Door Mission	\$32,000
Category: Emergency Shelter Operations	
Operation of a year-round emergency shelter with capacity of 31 beds for adults only	
Rutland County Women's Network & Shelter	\$22,000
Categories: Emergency Shelter Operations, HMIS Comparable	
Operation of a year-round emergency shelter with capacity of 5 rooms (12 beds) for individuals and families fleeing violence	

Upper Valley Continuum of Care (includes Randolph Area Housing Task Force)

Capstone Community Action	\$96,150
Categories: Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-housing, Innovation, HMIS	
Partial support for a full time housing specialist (.75 FTE)	
Innovation: Landlord Liaison to support landlord outreach and housing placement (full-time position split between Orange, Lamoille and Washington Counties)	
Rapid Re-Housing Financial & Rental Assistance: \$16,300	
Homelessness Prevention Financial & Rental Assistance: \$12,500	
Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)	\$62,247
Categories: Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-housing, HMIS	
Partial support for a full time housing specialist (.6 FTE)	
Rapid Re-Housing Financial & Rental Assistance: \$14,044	
Homelessness Prevention Financial & Rental Assistance: \$8,457	

Upper Valley Haven **\$47,000**

Categories: Emergency Shelter Operations & Essential Services

Partial support for a full-time shelter case manager (.3 FTE), operation of two year-round emergency shelters with capacity of 20 beds for adults only (Hixon House) and 8 rooms (46 beds) for families with children, and operation of a seasonal shelter with capacity of 12 beds for adults only

Washington County Continuum of Care

Capstone Community Action **\$224,103**

Categories: Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-housing, Innovation, Coordinated Entry, Transitional Housing, HMIS

A full time housing specialist, partial support for a position to implement coordinated entry (1.1 FTE)

Innovation: Landlord Liaison to support landlord outreach and housing placement (full-time position split between Orange, Lamoille and Washington Counties)

Rapid Re-Housing Financial & Rental Assistance: \$48,400

Homelessness Prevention Financial & Rental Assistance: \$37,000

Three units with two bedrooms each of transition-in-place housing for individuals and families

Circle **\$17,650**

Categories: Emergency Shelter Operations & Essential Services

Partial support for a full time Shelter Coordinator (.1), operation of a year-round emergency shelter with capacity of 6 rooms (12 beds) for individuals and families fleeing violence

Good Samaritan Haven **\$106,800**

Categories: Emergency Shelter Operations & Essential Services, HMIS

Partial support for full-time Shelter Director, evening supervisors and seasonal day supervisor (2.16 FTE), operation of a year-round emergency shelter with capacity of 16 beds (plus 4 overflow cots) for adults only

Safe Passage at Sexual Assault Crisis Team (SACT) **\$9,000**

Category: Emergency Shelter Operations

Operation of a year-round emergency shelter with capacity of 4 rooms (8 beds) for individuals fleeing sexual violence

Windsor-Windham Continuum of Care

Greater Falls Warming Shelter **\$13,000**

Category: Emergency Shelter Operations

Operation of a seasonal warming shelter in the Bellows Falls area (November – April) with capacity of 10 beds for adults only

Our Place Drop In **\$9,300**

Categories: Emergency Shelter Operations & Essential Services

Partial support for a case manager to work with Greater Falls Warming Shelter guests (.25 FTE); year-round operation of a day shelter

Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) **\$14,909**

Categories: Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-housing, HMIS

Rapid Re-Housing Financial & Rental Assistance: \$4,248

Homelessness Prevention Financial & Rental Assistance: \$8,570

Springfield Family Center **\$17,000**

Category: Emergency Shelter Operations

Operation of a year-round day shelter

Springfield Supported Housing **\$150,092**

Categories: Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-housing, Transitional Housing

Partial support for a full-time Motel Case Manager and 2 full time housing specialists (1.9 FTE)

Rapid Re-Housing Financial & Rental Assistance: \$20,600

Homelessness Prevention Financial & Rental Assistance: \$30,900

One unit of short-term transitional housing for individuals and families

Springfield Warming Shelter **\$15,000**

Categories: Emergency Shelter Operations & Essential Services

Partial support for a seasonal shelter coordinator (.3 FTE); operation of a seasonal warming shelter in Springfield (November – April) with capacity of 8 beds for adults only

Windsor County Youth Services **\$14,375**

Category: Emergency Shelter Operations

Operation of a year-round emergency shelter with capacity of 4 beds (out of 16 total) for unaccompanied youth at either Mountainside House (Ludlow) and House at 20 Mile Stream (Proctorsville)

Statewide or Multiple Regions

Friends of Veterans \$6,000

Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Financial & Rental Assistance: \$6,000

Institute for Community Alliances \$50,000

HMIS system operation, administration and oversight

ReSOURCE \$12,500

Essential Goods vouchers for housing service partners to distribute to homeless or recently homeless households – for use to purchase large appliances, furniture or household goods at Burlington, Barre or Morrisville stores

Vermont Coalition of Runaway & Homeless Youth Programs \$22,000

Transitional Living Program: partial support for a program coordinator at four sites: Northeast Kingdom Youth Services, Youth Services (Brattleboro), Northeast Kingdom Community Action (Newport) and Washington County Youth Service Bureau

Vermont Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence \$60,000

Categories: Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-housing, HMIS Comparable

Rapid Re-Housing Financial & Rental Assistance: \$30,000

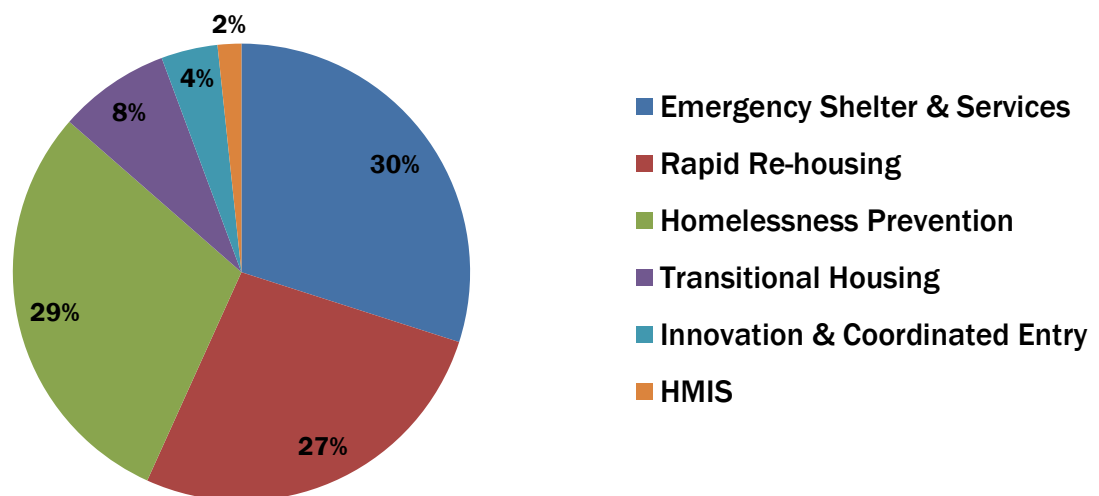
Homelessness Prevention Financial & Rental Assistance: \$25,000

Funds support the work at Network partners statewide

Vermont State Housing Authority \$15,000

AHS Housing Inspections for the Housing & Opportunity Grant Program

Housing & Opportunity Grant Program SFY 2016 Awards



Housing & Opportunity Grant Program – Program Performance Measurement

Grantee's individual performance measures will be structured around one or more of the following indicators:

1) Preventing Homelessness

*The number of households at risk of homelessness assisted, the percentage whose housing is stabilized within 28 days (target 70%) **AND** the percentage of these households who remain stably housed for at least 90 days following the intervention (target 70%).*

2) Connecting Homeless Households with Essential Services

The percentage of homeless households in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or publicly-funded motels who meet with a case manager or program equivalent within 3 days of referral (target 90%).

3) Increasing Income and Access to Mainstream Benefits for Homeless Households

The number of homeless households receiving case management and:

*the percentage who subsequently attain employment **OR** are enrolled in an educational or training program, **OR** qualify for cash or non-cash benefits (e.g., Reach-Up, SSI, General Assistance, VA, 3SquaresVt, etc) within 90 days of referral (target 70%);*

*the percentage who subsequently are stabilized in transitional or permanent housing within 90 days (target: 70%) **AND** the percentage of these formerly homeless households who continue to be stably housed for at least 90 days (target 70%).*

4) Rapidly Re-Housing Homeless Families and Individuals / Retention of Housing

*The number of homeless households assisted, the percentage re-housed in permanent housing within 28 days (target: 70%), **AND** the percentage of these formerly homeless households who continue to be stably housed for at least 90 days (target 70%).*

For those served by Transitional Housing:

*At least 70% of households exiting the program will exit to permanent housing; **AND** 70% of these formerly homeless households who continue to be stably housed for at least 90 days.*

For Youth Programs:

*At least 70% of youth exiting the program will have "safe exits" as defined by one of the following categories: College, Friends, Home with Family, Independent Living, Job Corps, Military, Relative's Home, or Residential Treatment/Rehab. **AND** At least 70% of the above youth with a safe exit, will continue to be stably housed for at least 90 days.*

System Performance Measurement

A critical aspect of achieving HOP objectives is a focus on viewing the local homeless response as a coordinated system of homeless assistance options rather than separate programs and funding sources that operate independently in a community. In alignment with unfolding federal and State expectations, the Office of Economic Opportunity is committed to working in partnership with the Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness and the Chittenden Homeless Alliance to measure performance as a coordinated system. These will include measures such as:

- The length of time individuals and families remain homeless;
- The extent to which individuals and families who leave homelessness experience additional episodes of homelessness;
- The thoroughness of grantees in reaching homeless individuals and families;
- The overall reduction in the number of homeless individuals and families;
- Jobs and income growth for homeless individuals and families;
- Success at reducing the number of individuals and families who become homeless;
- Successful housing placement to or retention in a permanent housing destination.